United Nations A/66/703

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2012
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda items 24 (b), 36, 41, 45 and 58

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

The situation in the Middle East

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Letter dated 10 February 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and to inform you that the eleventh Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) was held on 4 and 5 February 2012 in Caracas, Venezuela.

In that regard, on behalf of the ALBA-TCP member countries, I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the following documents, which were adopted at the Summit (see annex), circulated as documents of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly:

1. Resolution of member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America on the entry of Santa Lucia and the Republic of Suriname as special guest members; and ratification of the Republic of Haiti as permanent guest member (under item 24b)

2. Agreement for the creation of the Economic Space of ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) (under item 24b)

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3. Act of commitment between the Republic of Argentina and the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) (under item 24b)

4. ALBA-TCP-Haiti work mechanism (under item 24b)

5. Special declaration of the 11th Summit of ALBA-TCP on the colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands (under item 45)

6. Syria communiqué (under item 36)

7. Special declaration on the five Cuban heroes (under item 41)

8. Special declaration on Puerto Rico (under item 58)

9. Framework cooperation agreement between the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Government of the Republic of Haiti (under item 24b)

(*Signed*) Ambassador Jorge **Valero**
Deputy Minister for North America
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 10 February 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

RESOLUTION OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLES OF OUR AMERICA ON THE ENTRY OF SANTA LUCIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME AS SPECIAL GUEST MEMBERS; AND RATIFICATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI AS PERMANENT GUEST MEMBER

The Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America gathered in the city of Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on February 5, 2012, in the opportunity of holding the 11th Summit of ALBA-TPC within the framework of the 20th Anniversary of the Bolivarian Rebellion of February 4, 1992.

Recognized the strengthening of ALBA and its consolidation as a political, economic and social alliance for the defence of independence, sovereignty, self-determination and identity of the countries composing it, and the interests and ambitions of the peoples of the South against political and economic domination attempts.

Welcomed the recognizance of ALBA by Santa Lucia and the Republic of Suriname as an alternative that promotes complementarity instead of competitiveness, solidarity instead of domination, cooperation to replace exploitation, and respect for the sovereignty of our peoples. They emphasized the

strategic importance of those adhesions and highlighted the fundamental contribution that those honourable nations will make to the Grand-National unity project of the peoples of Our America.

Instructed the Political Council to implement the entry of Santa Lucia and the Republic of Suriname as special guest members of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America.

In turn, President Michel Martelly ratified the will of the Republic of Haiti to continue participating as permanent guest member of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA).

In the city of Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on February 5, 2012.

(Adopted by the ALBA Economic Council)

AGREEMENT FOR THE CREATION OF THE ECONOMIC SPACE OF ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) (AGREED AT THE ECONOMIC COMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL OF ALBA)

Member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America-Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), hereinafter called The Parties;

ACKNOWLEDGING the common patrimony that constitutes the historic, philosophic, political and social wealth of our indigenous and independence peoples and heroes, amongst whom Simon Bolivar stands out as the emblematic figure of the liberating heroic deed and singular genius of the American construction;

ASSUMING that the union of our nations is necessary to ensure the development and welfare of their peoples, as well as to join supportive efforts to fully overcome poverty, social exclusion and external dependency;

AWARE that an innovating and multidimensional sub-regional integration process like ALBA-TCP will allow us to attain the final independence and full sovereignty of our countries, as well as to promote the union of the entire Latin-American and Caribbean region;

COMMITTED to the development of an ALBA-TCP economic space, which instruments and evolution vindicate supportive trade principles, foster and streamline the production capacity of the region, transform the production apparatus in terms of our needs, capacities and potentialities, promote and facilitate trade exchange recognizing the asymmetries existing among The Parties;

CONVINCED that the equitable distribution of wealth and the socialization of production means constitute two powerful tools to ensure social justice and the progress of our societies and economic systems;

EMPHASIZING that ALBA–TCP promotes the principles of independence, solidarity, cooperation, economic complementarity, social justice, equity, shared benefit, respect to the sovereignty of our countries and the cultural diversity and harmony with nature; as well as international law principles;

REAFFIRMING our anti-imperialist nature contrary to any hegemonic manifestation in favour of the oligarchies, and committed to the construction of a pluripolar world;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the heritage of presidential declarations, special agreements and specific regulations established among The Parties since the formal creation of ALBA-TCP in December 2004;

AGREE to enter into this Agreement in the following terms:

Article 1: The purpose of this Agreement is to create the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space as a shared-development, inter-dependent, sovereign and supportive economic zone aimed at consolidating and enlarging a new alternative model of economic relations that will strengthen and diversify the production apparatus and trade exchanges, as well as establishing the bases for the bilateral and multilateral instruments that The Parties may enter into on this matter, with a view to satisfying the physical and spiritual needs of our peoples.

The ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space implies:

1. The planning and streamlining of economic relations among The Parties, by optimizing the complementary productive and commercial linkage. Within this context, this Agreement defines the economic principles that will rule the shared-development process under the perspective of a bloc and not as a mere aggregation of individual countries, which will also allow its international positioning.

2. The circulation of assets and the linkage of

production means among The Parties, which will facilitate full development of their production potentialities and capacities in priority sectors in order to satisfy the needs of our peoples, taking into account intra-regional demand and fostering productive scaling up through various aspects, such as tariff relief, emphasis on the exchange of raw materials, capital assets and intermediate assets, and final consumption assets, and the application of a set of measures that will foster them, based on the Development Plans formulated by each Party.

3. The linkage of economic policies among the Parties in order to ensure adequate conditions for complementarity, performing studies that facilitate the identification and assessment of potential common interest spaces in order to formulate the strategies that will determine their inter-regional relations with regard to third States, blocs of States, trade areas and international agencies.

4. The promotion of a production specialization according to the strengths of each country, but without limiting the integral development of their production apparatus and allowing overcoming the asymmetries existing among the Parties and within such production apparatus.

5. The use of mechanisms and instruments of the

new financial architecture designed by the ALBA-TCP, with special emphasis on the consolidation of the Bank of ALBA as an effective instrument to finance grand national and cooperation economic projects, as well as the Regional Clearance Unitary System (SUCRE), which should cover a minimum of twenty per cent (20%) of the trade exchange among the Parties, and progressively increase this percentage using therefore measures that promote and foster its use.

Article 2: For compliance with the purpose of this Agreement, the Parties agree that the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space will be governed by the following ruling principles:

1. **Trade with complimentarity, solidarity and cooperation**, for us to jointly attain a dignified life and good living conditions, promoting commercial and cooperation rules for the welfare of the people, and in particular, of the most disfavoured sectors.

2. **Sovereign trade without constraints or interference in internal affairs**, respecting the political constitutions and the laws of the States, without forcing them to accept conditions, rules or commitments.

3. **Complementary and supportive trade among peoples, nations and their companies**. The development of socio-productive complementation based on cooperation, use of the existing capacities and potentialities of countries, saving of resources and creation of employment. The search of complementarity, cooperation and solidarity among different countries. The constant scientific-technical exchange, cooperation and collaboration as a form of development, taking into consideration the strengths of member countries in specific areas with a view to constitute a critical mass in the field of innovation, science and technology.

4. **Protection of production of national interest for the integral development of all peoples and nations**. All countries can become industrial countries and diversify their production in order to achieve the integral growth of all sectors of their economies. Rejection of the "export or die" premise and questioning of the development model based on export strongholds. The privilege of production and a national market that fosters satisfaction of the needs of the population through internal production factors, importing what is necessary and exporting surpluses in a complementary fashion.

5. **Supportive treatment for the weakest economies**. Unconditional cooperation and support, in order to reach a sustainable development level that allows attaining supreme social happiness.

   Whilst the TLCs impose equal and reciprocate rules for all alike, big and small, the TCPs poses a kind of trade that recognizes the differences among various countries through rules that favour the smallest economies

6. **Recognizance of the role of sovereign States in the socio-economic development and regulation of the economy**. Contrary to the TLCs that pursue privatization of the different sectors of the economy and decrease of the State, the TCP seeks to strengthen the State as the central actor of a country's economy at all levels, facing private practice contrary to public interest, such as monopoly, oligopoly, cartelization, hoarding, speculation and usury. The TCP supports the nationalization and recovery of companies and natural resources to which the peoples are entitled, establishing legal defence mechanisms for the same.

7. **Promotion of harmony between man and**

nature, respecting the right of Mather Earth and promoting economic growth in harmony with nature. The rights of Mother Earth are recognized and sustainability in harmony with nature is promoted.

8. **Contribution of trade and investments to the strengthening of the cultural and historical identity of our peoples**. Whilst the TLCs seek to convert the entity humankind in mere consumers by homogenizing consumption patterns and thus expand the multinationals' markets, the TCP fosters the diversity of cultural expressions in trade.

9. **Favouring of the communities, communes, cooperatives, social production companies, small and medium companies**. Joint promotion towards other export markets of our countries and production resulting from productive complementation actions.

10. **Development of sovereignty and food safety of member countries in order to ensure a social an integral quantity and quality of food for our peoples**. Support to the policies and national production of food to guarantee access to food by the population in adequate amount and quality.

11. **Trade with tariff policies adjusted to the requirements of developing countries**. Elimination among our countries of all barriers that constitute an obstacle for complementation, allowing countries to raise their tariffs to protect their newly-formed industries or when deemed necessary for their internal development and the wellbeing of their population in order to promote greater integration among our peoples. Asymmetric and non-reciprocating tariff reliefs that allow less developed countries raising their tariffs to protect their newly-formed industries or when deemed necessary for their internal development and the wellbeing of their population.

12. **Trade that protects basic services and human rights**. Acknowledgment of the countries' sovereign right to control their services according to their national development priorities and to provide basic and strategic services directly through the State or joint investments with partner countries.

    Contrary to the TLC that promotes privatization of the water, education health, transportation, communications and energy basic services, the TCP promotes and

strengthens the role of the State in the supply of such essential services that lead to full compliance of human rights.

13. **Cooperation for development of the different service sectors**. Priority to cooperation addressed to the development of structural capacities in the countries, seeking social solutions in sectors such as health and education, among others. Acknowledgment of the countries' sovereign right to control and regulate all service sectors seeking to promote their national services companies. Promotion of cooperation among countries for development of the different service sectors over the promotion of unfair free competition among service companies of a different scale.

14. **Respect and cooperation through Public Purchasing**. Public purchasing is a planning tool for the development and promotion of national production that should be reinforced through the joint cooperation, participation and implementation of purchases when deemed adequate.

15. **Implementation of joint trade investments that could adopt the form of grand National companies.** The association of State companies from different countries to foster

sovereign development and mutual benefit.

16. **Partners, not bosses. The requirement that foreign investment respects national laws**. Contrary to the TLCs that impose a series of advantages and securities in favour of multinational companies, the TCP seeks foreign investment that respects the laws, reinvests the profits and settles any discussion with the State like any national investor.

    Foreign investors may not sue National States or Governments because they develop public interest policies.

17. **Trade that respects life. Whilst the TLCs promote the patenting of biodiversity and the human genome**, the TCP protects them as common heritage of humankind and mother earth.

18. **Giving the right to development and health preference over intellectual and industrial property**. Contrary to the TLCs that seek to patent and extend the life of invention patents that are essential for human health, the preservation of mother earth and the growth of development counties –many of which have been carried out with public funds or subsidies counties– the TCP gives preference to the

right to development and health over the intellectual property of multinationals.

19. **Adoption of mechanisms that entail monetary and financial independence**. Promotion of mechanisms that help to strengthen monetary and financial sovereignty and complementarity among countries.

20. **Protection of workers' rights and indigenous peoples' rights**. Promotion of full implementation of the same and penalization of the company, not the country, not fulfilling them.

21. **Publication of trade negotiations, for the people to exercise its leading and participating role in trading**. No secret negotiations carried out behind the population's back.

22. **Quality as social accumulation of knowledge and its application to production in terms of satisfaction of the social needs of the peoples**, according to a new concept of quality within the framework of ALBA-CP for standards not to become the obstacles for production and trade exchange among the peoples.

23. **Free movement of people as a human right**. The TCP reaffirms the right to free human movement in order to reinforce brotherhood bonds among all world countries.

24. **Differentiated and supportive treatment** that takes into account the development level and objectives, as well as the sizes of the economies of each Party, and that guarantees their access to the benefits arising from ALBA-TCP.

25. **Energy integration** to guarantee the reliable and supportive supply of energy resources for the economic and social development of our countries, as well as for the generation of new forms of cleaner and safer energy forms.

26. **Socialization of knowledge** to create complementary spaces that help to improve productive processes without the limitations established in various international mechanisms

Article 3: During the period of creation of the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space that will cover from the entering into force of this Agreement until two (2) years have elapsed, the Parties will adopt a Regulatory and Programmatic Regime that regulates the shared-development economic zone of ALBA-TCP

as an alternative and innovative proposal of the region against the already established schemes that regulate international trade in the following aspects: origin regime, technical rules, promotion incentives and industrial linkage, incentives for the exchange of raw materials, capital assets and intermediate assets, safeguards, sanitary, phytosanitary and zoosanitary measures, protection of national production in sectors deemed strategic for the Parties (within an integral view and with special emphasis on newly-formed industries) and settlement of disputes.

Temporary Provision: Until the regulatory and programmatic regime provided in Article 3 is adopted, the Parties will accept the bilaterally established trade provisions existing between individual members in force at the time of signing this Agreement. However, such provisions will be progressively replaced as new specific instruments resulting from this Agreement materialize.

Article 5: The Parties, in their capacity as ruling, promoting, supervising and decisive actors in the socio-economic development of their respective countries, agree to identify, in order to take joint actions, the strategic areas to be developed according to the nature and specificity of each production sector and taking into account those sectors that take care of the generation of assets to satisfy the fundamental needs of our peoples.

Article 6: The Parties will favour schemes of complimentarity alliance for production linkage by exploring the types of association most appropriate for each project, fostering the participation of communities, original indigenous and peasants production units, cooperatives, small and medium companies, social, State and private property companies and other types of ventures in such process.

Article 7: The Parties will promote supportive trade based on the benefit of the Parties and aimed at reinforcing their production apparatus, permitting the generation and aggregation of internal value to their respective economies and fostering complementarity in sectors with potential for their articulation in productive linkage networks, ensuring their economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Article 8: The Parties will promote territorial specialization in order to establish the location of productive development zones based on the comparative and geostrategic potentialities existing among them. This will facilitate definition of the areas to which joint projects should be directed to begin building the interconnected productive fabric of the region.

Article 9: The Parties will promote the creation of Grand National companies as the maximum

expression of productive linkage that will permit to establish joint structural capacities in the production, distribution and marketing networks, giving priority to the exchange of raw materials, capital assets and intermediate assets. Within this context, we state as general strategy the organization and consolidation, in a first stage, of bi-national joint companies in specific sectors, based on the conditions that facilitate their creation, the progressive incorporation of other countries later on.

Article 10: The Parties undertake to foster the development of knowhow, transfer of technology, research and technology, as well as the development of knowledge and research in innovations and technologies.

Article 11: Particular emphasis should have promotion of the training of management cadres, as this will permit to strengthen production units aimed at transforming the current production base by adding knowledge and guidance to meet human needs.

Article 12: Creation of the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space will be promoted and monitored by the ALBA-TCP Economic Complementation Council, which has a inter-governmental nature and which decisions will be coordinated with the Political Council according to the guidelines of the ALBA-TCP Presidential Council, the latter higher decision making

venue having the operational and administrative support of the Executive Secretariat of the ALBA-TCP Permanent Coordination.

The ALBA-TCP Economic Complementation Council is organized as a dialog, reflection, consultation and cooperation body for ALBA-TCP members, as well as for the coordination of policies, strategies and projects for productive, commercial and financial complementarity, with a view to structuring the shared-development economic zone of ALBA- TCP.

Article 13: To achieve the objectives of this Agreement, the ALBA-TCP Economic Complementation Council will have the following functions:

a) Define the architecture and operation of the shared-development economic zone of ALBA-TCP;
b) Jointly study the economic needs, potentialities and capacities of each Party for the linkage of productive chains and integral development of the Parties;
c) Promote periodic meetings with the bodies and work groups of ALBA–TCP related to the economic content for preparation of the regulatory and programmatic regime provide in Article 3 of this Agreement;
d) Promote the Exchange of information on economic and social policies;

e) Explore the scenarios that will allow us to visualize and identify sectors with complementarity potentialities in different types of production linkages among the Parties and their impact on the rest of the economic activities, as well as the productive specialization of the Alliance before third parties;
f) Order and prioritize grand national projects of productive and commercial complementarity, and formulate the Industrial Development Plans of ALBA-TCP;
g) Promote the use of the Regional Clearance Unitary System (SUCRE) as a payment mechanism in order to strengthen the integral development of the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space;
h) Create the auxiliary bodies and work groups necessary to organize and monitor the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space;
i) Discuss, adopt and present to decision-making bodies of the ALBA-TCP the instruments necessary to organize the shared-development economic zone of ALBA-TCP within the term provided in this Agreement;
j) Design an integral system of financial, tax, exchange, commercial, technological, administrative, logistic support, technical assistance, training and of any other type of nature that may be necessary to streamline economic activities within ALBA-TCP.
k) Promote and monitor the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-

TCP) Economic Space;

l) Issue the rules for its internal operation and establish the operational and administrative support functions to be carried out by the Executive Secretariat of the Permanent Coordination of ALBA-TCP, for compliance with this Agreement;

m) Others that, in the opinion of the Parties, may facilitate the consolidation of the ALBA-TCP (ECOALBA-TCP) Economic Space.

Article 14: An economic investigation body for ALBA-TCP matters is created to develop the scientific bases of the decisions of the Alliance; for this, the Parties undertake to compile and exchange statistic information on economic, industrial, commercial and financial indicators with a view to constitute a data bank that will promotes economic complementarity and reinforce the finance and payment mechanisms of ALBA-TCP, giving priority to the use of the SUCRE and the Bank of ALBA. Within this context, this body will promote the construction of the ALBA-TCP Economic Map, where the strengths and weaknesses of our economies will be identified and the principal strategies to materialize such complementarity will be assessed.

Article 15: Given that Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), the Economic Union of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

(OECS) and the CARICOM, it is necessary that ALBA-TCP begins discussions with the ECCU, the OECS and the CARICOM on matters discussed in this Agreement, specially the SUCRE and trade- associated tariff agreements.

Article 16: The discussions that may arise among the Parties, from the application or implementation of this Agreement will be submitted to direct negotiation among them. If the discussions are not settled in that manner, they will be submitted to the decision of the Presidential Council of ALBA-TCP.

Article 17: This Agreement may be amended or modified at the request of any of its Parties. The amendments of modification will enter into force when the Parties have stated their consent to be bound by depositing the respective acceptance instrument with the People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Article 18: This Agreement is opened for its signature at the seat of the People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as of the date of its subscription and for a sixty (60)-day period.

Article 19: This Agreement will enter into force in five (5) calendar days as of the day following deposit of the second ratification instrument at the People's Ministry

for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and will last for an indefinite term. For the other signatories, it will enter into force in five (5) calendar days as of the day following deposit of the respective ratification instrument, and in the order in which the ratifications were deposited.

The ratification instruments will be deposited at the People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who will notify the date of deposit to Governments of the States who have signed this Agreement and to those which, as applicable, have adhered to it. The People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will notify each Party the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 20: After entering into force, this Agreement will remain open for adhesion by Latin American and Caribbean countries who so request it and after the adhesion is approved by the ALBA-TCP Presidential Council, and will enter into force for the adhering country thirty (30) calendar days as of the day following the date of deposit of the respective adhesion instrument.

Article 21: This Agreement may not be signed with reservations, nor may reservations be accepted at the time of its ratification or adhesion.

Article 22: The People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will be the depository of this Agreement and will send certified copies of it to Member Countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, ALBA-TCP.

Article 23: Each Member State may denounce this Agreement through written notice presented to the People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The denounce will take effect in twelve (12) months after the date when the notice was delivered. The denouncing State may at any time before the above-mentioned period of time, desist of its intention to withdraw through written notice sent to the People's Ministry for Exterior Relations of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

In all cases, denounce of this Agreement will not affect development of the activities derived thereof or compliance with the instruments signed for its implementation, which will continue in effect until their complete implementation, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

Any State who has withdrawn from this Agreement may request again its adherence to the same.

Signed in the city of Caracas, Bolivarian republic of

Venezuelan on this fourth (4th) day of the month of February year two thousand and twelve, in one original counterpart written in the English and Spanish languages.

ACT OF COMMITMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE FOR THE PEOPLES OF OUR AMERICA – PEOPLES' TRADE AGREEMENT (ALBA-TCP)

The Republic of Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Cuba, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, hereinafter called the Parties;

CONSIDERING the bonds of friendship and understanding existing among the Republic of Argentina and Antigua and Barbuda, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Cuba, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, countries that make up the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP);

CONVINCED of the importance of fostering the exchange of know-how and experience in different sectors that contributes to human and social development of the Peoples of the Parties;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to have mechanisms that facilitate the specific support of the regional integration process in its different

manifestations and the economic and productive development of our peoples with equity and social inclusion;

AWARE that training and the transfer of technologies constitute ways for the construction of a more equitable and all-embracing society;

HAVE decided to enter into this **ACT OF COMMITMENT**, in the following terms:

ARTICLE ONE: The Republic of Argentina will implement activities of training, technical assistance and transfer of technology through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, through its technological body attached to the National Institute of Agro-Livestock Technology (INTA) and the Ministry of Industry, through its technical body attached to the National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) in accordance with a Program that will be jointly prepared with ALBA-TCP member countries.

ARTICLE TWO: The Parties will promote the exchange of officers, technicians, producers and students in order to share experiences and foster cooperation and development.

ARTICLE THREE: The scope of this Act of Commitment should include development of a comprehensive system of mutual cooperation in the fields of research and transfer of agricultural and industrial technology among the Parties.

ARTICLE FOUR: The Parties have agreed that within a 30-day term following signature of this Act of Commitment, they shall establish a schedule, as well as the requirements to carry out the relevant actions, in accordance with the budgetary availability and the particular needs of each country.

ARTICLE FIVE: The Parties agreed to create a Working Group that shall implement projects and actions as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE SIX: This Act of Commitment does not bond the Parties except as expressly provided herein. Therefore, it shall not generate exclusive, excluding or preferential rights. Consequently, it shall not affect the commitments undertaken under agreements entered into with third parties.

ARTICLE SEVEN: All the expenses incurred in connection with the execution of this Act of Commitment shall be approved by the Parties. No Party shall incur expenses or financial obligations on behalf of any other Party, without prior written consent, based on their respective budgetary availability.

ARTICLE EIGHT: Any doubts or disputes that may arise in connection with the construction or enforcement of this Act of Commitment shall be settled in a friendly manner through direct consultations among the parties.

ARTICLE NINE: This Act of Commitment may be modified as agreed by the Parties, through a written document that will be a integral part hereof.

ARTICLE TEN: This Act of Commitment will enter into force at the time of its signature, will last for one (01) year as of its signature, and may be extended by agreement among the Parties.

Any Party may terminate this Act of Commitment through written notice addressed to the other Parties. Termination will become effective thirty (30) days after receiving the respective notice.

Signed at the city of Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, of this fourth day of the month of February 2012, in two original copies in the English and the Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic, one for the Republic of Argentina and the other for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will send a certified copy of this Act of Commitment to the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP).

By the Republic of Argentina

Héctor Timerman
Minister of Foreign Relations and Cult

By Antigua and Barbuda

Winston Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Evo Morales Ayma
President

By the Republic of Cuba

Raúl Castro Ruz
President of the State Council

By the Commonwealth of Dominica

Roosevelt Skerrit
Prime Minister

By the Republic of Ecuador

Rafael Correa
President

By the Republic of Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega
President

By Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Ralph Goncalves
Prime Minister

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Hugo Chávez Frías
President

ALBA-TCP-HAITI WORK MECHANISM

The comprehensive project of emergency assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Haiti approved by ALBA-TCP on January 25, 2010, was the first step of a joint cooperation effort based on the accumulated experience of years of work in favour of that nation.

The results reached in the reconstruction and rehabilitation process and the acquired experience have permitted to boost the coordination between ALBA-TCP and the Government of Haiti, which has created the conditions to deepen and expand such cooperation within a comprehensive mechanism of contribution to development.

The ALBA-TCP-Haiti Work Mechanism responsible for the implementation of a Special Cooperation and Development Plan of ALBA-TCP for Haiti was created for that purpose. This will be a mechanism attached to the Political Council in which a representation of the Haitian Government will participate and that will have as mandate the design, organization and inspection of compliance with the Special Plan.

For installation of this Mechanism, the Political Council will, in coordination with the Government of Haiti, convene a meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers or their

representatives to be held in Haiti in the first week of the upcoming month of March.

Both the Mechanism and the Special Plan will rest on the principle that every cooperation effort for the reconstruction and development of Haiti should have the people and the government of that country as leaders and respect their territorial sovereignty and integrity.

In principle, the Special Plan shall have as priorities the areas of health, education, energy, agri-food production and infrastructure. It will incorporate the technical assistance and technicians training component to all programs and projects.

This effort of ALBA-TCP will be framed within the greater commitment of solidarity with Haiti of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CLACS). By undertaking this effort, ALBA-TCP member countries ratify the importance of the contribution that the international community may provide to the development requirements of that Latin American and Caribbean country.

SPECIAL DECLARATION OF THE 11TH SUMMIT OF ALBA-TCP ON THE COLONIAL SITUATION IN THE MALVINAS ISLANDS

The Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), gathered in Caracas, Venezuela, on February 4-5, 2012, reiterate their strongest support for the legitimate claim by the Republic of Argentina on its sovereign right over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, as well as the surrounding maritime areas;

Hope that the Republic of Argentina and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland resume negotiations to attain a peaceful and definite solution to said dispute, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations (UN), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CLACS);

Urge the parties to abide by Resolution 31/49 of the UN General Assembly, refraining from adopting decisions that entail introducing unilateral modifications into the situation while the aforementioned Islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

Praise the permanent constructive stance and willingness of the Argentinean Government to attain, through negotiations, a pacific and definite solution to this anachronistic colonial situation on American soil.

Support the decision made by the countries of the region to ban ships with the colonial flag imposed on the Malvinas from entering their ports

Syria's Communique

The Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA-TCP) ratified their rejection of the systematic intervention and destabilization policy in the sister nation of the Arab Republic of Syria aimed at forcefully imposing a change of regime to the Syrian people.

The ALBA-TCP member countries condemned the acts of armed violence that irregular groups supported by foreign powers have unleashed against the Syrian people, and fervently hope that calm and a peace are restored in the Syrian society.

The ALBA-TCP member countries reasserted their support for the policy of reforms and national dialogue bolstered by President Bashar Al Assad, which are intended to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis, with respect for the Syrian people's sovereignty and the territorial integrity of that Arab sister nation.

SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE FIVE CUBAN HEROES

The Heads of State and Government of member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP), gathered in Caracas on February 4 – 5, 2012, expressed their solidarity with the Five Cuban Heroes who are suffering political punishment in U.S. jails for fighting terrorism, and whose cause is known worldwide.

They claimed that they all are released as an act of humanitarian justice, considering the long years of incarceration they have suffered in the cruelest conditions, the pain caused to their families and friends, and the fact that their punishments are the result of serious judicial irregularities due to political retaliation.

SPECIAL DECLARATION ON PUERTO RICO

The Heads of State and Government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), gathered in Caracas, Venezuela, on February 4 - 5, 2012, expressed their most firm support to the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and full independence.

They recalled that Puerto Rico is a Latin-American and Caribbean nation with own and unmistakable identity and history, which right to sovereignty has been violated by the colonial tutelage imposed for over one century.

They emphasized that the cause of independence of Puerto Rico is a matter that concerns the Latin America and the Caribbean region and their political agreement and cooperation bodies, in particular the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CLACS).

They demanded the freedom of political prisoners in jail for fighting in favor of the independence and self-determination of Puerto Rico, among them comrade Oscar López, who has been inhumanly held in jail for over thirty one years.

Framework cooperation agreement between the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Government of the Republic of Haiti

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Government of the Republic of Haiti, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

CONSIDERING that both Governments wish to promote reciprocal cooperation frameworks based on the principles of solidarity, cooperation, complementarity, reciprocity and sustainability, with a view to building a new and more just society,

CONSIDERING that both Parties are determined to pursue the path of comprehensive development in the economic, social, educational, industrial and energy spheres, among others, in order to overcome inherited structural problems,

CONSIDERING that the sharing of knowledge and experience, as well as the joint development of solidarity-based cooperation projects in the agricultural, energy, industrial and social spheres, among others, will constitute an ongoing and sustainable contribution to the well-being of the peoples of both countries,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

The purpose of this Agreement is to revive and consolidate cooperation between the Parties through the development of programmes in specific areas of interest to both countries which contribute to the comprehensive development of their peoples and are based on the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and mutual advantage, in accordance with their respective domestic laws and the provisions of this Agreement.

Article II

The cooperation provided for in this Agreement may be undertaken in the following areas:

1. Agricultural development;
2. Joint investments in agricultural production and irrigation systems;
3. Distribution and production of fertilizers;
4. Industrial development;
5. Financial cooperation to give producers access to credit;
6. Cooperation in the energy sector: storage of petroleum products;
7. Cooperation in the gas sector: regasification and distribution;
8. Marketing and distribution of household goods;
9. Cooperation on the issue of civil registration and identification;
10. Tourism;
11. Education;

12. Health; and

13. Any other areas jointly agreed upon by the Parties.

The cooperation provided for in this Agreement may involve the development of specific projects in areas of interest, as well as the exchange of information and experience between the Parties.

The first such specific cooperation projects shall be agreed upon by the Parties and included in annexes hereto, which shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article III

In order to implement the cooperation provided for in this Agreement, the Parties may adopt complementary agreements or other instruments in areas of common interest, which shall specify the following:

1. The objectives sought;

2. The timetable of work;

3. The obligations of each of the Parties;

4. Financing; and

5. The institutions responsible for implementation.

Article IV

In order to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, the Parties agree to establish a Venezuela-Haiti High-level Committee, presided over by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two Parties or by their designated representatives, which shall be convened every six months alternately in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Haiti. The Parties may, by mutual agreement, convene extraordinary meetings of the Committee whenever they deem it necessary.

For each of the selected areas of cooperation, the Committee shall establish a subcommittee, in which the Ministries and other competent bodies designated by the Parties shall participate.

The High-level Committee shall have the following functions:

1. Review and follow-up of the progress and level of bilateral cooperation and the preparation of strategic plans and projects of cooperation, together with their respective timetables for implementation;

2. Evaluation of proposed bilateral projects for the development and implementation of priority programmes and allocation of resources;

3. Monitoring of the implementation of cooperation plans and programmes and review of their outcomes;

4. Formulation of recommendations relating to the implementation of this Agreement.

Records shall be drafted for all meetings of the Committee and the subcommittees and shall reflect the outcomes of the meetings and timetables of the work to be carried out.

Article V

Such expenses as may be incurred during the implementation of this Agreement shall be borne by the Parties in accordance with their available budgetary resources.

Article VI

This agreement may be amended by mutual agreement between the Parties. The amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the provisions of article VIII.

Article VII

Any questions or disputes that may arise with respect to the interpretation of this Agreement shall be settled through direct negotiations between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

Article VIII

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last communication whereby the Parties notify each other of the completion of their domestic legal formalities and requirements for that purpose.

This Agreement shall remain in effect for a period of three years and shall be automatically extended for successive three-year periods unless either Party notifies the other in writing, through the diplomatic channel, of its intention not to renew the Agreement; such notice shall be given at least six months prior to the expiration date of the Agreement.

Either Party may denounce this Agreement. Such denunciation shall take effect 60 days after it has been communicated to the other Party.

The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the implementation of the programmes and projects initiated hereunder, which shall continue until their implementation has been completed unless the Parties otherwise agree.

Done at Caracas on 5 February 2012, in two originals in the French and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:

Hugo Chávez
President

For the Government of
the Republic of Haiti:

Michel Martelly
President